

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-5 are pending. Claims 1-5 have been amended. Claims 6-7 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview of November 5, 2003. Applicants differentiated the claimed inventions over the cited prior art references by highlighting that the claimed inventions relates to travel expenses that have not been reimbursed.

Claims 1-2, 4-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Garback. Although not specifically stated, claims 5 and 6 also appear to have been rejected by Garback. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a schedule management system comprising a plurality of terminal devices interconnected over a line for performing travel expense adjustment reimbursement processing. The claimed invention enables searching of travel expenses that have not been reimbursed using certain features associated with business trip schedule information, as illustrated by Figs. 2 and 7. The claim recites, "...code for extracting business trip schedule information based on said status and classification data, code for comparing said travel expense reimbursement information and said business trip schedule information with each other to search for travel expense information that has not been reimbursed, and code for determining whether or not a user of one of the terminals has indicated that the user wishes to reimburse the travel expense information that has not been reimbursed." Garback does not disclose or suggest these features. Claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 4 recites, "an inputting means for inputting business trip schedule information including status and classification data; a schedule information editing means for editing the business trip schedule information obtained from said inputting means to information in a form for management on an external storage apparatus; a schedule information storage means for storing the edited schedule information onto said external storage apparatus; a searching means for searching business trip schedule information from the external storage apparatus based on said status and classification data; an unreimbursed travel expense information search means for collating the travel expense reimbursement information stored on

said external storage apparatus and the business trip schedule information stored on said external storage apparatus with each other to search for unreimbursed travel expenses; a schedule and message display/reply means for displaying the business trip schedule information and the unreimbursed information on a screen of the terminal; displaying means for displaying a query to a user as to whether or not the unreimbursed information is to be reimbursed; a travel expense reimbursement information inputting means for inputting travel expense reimbursement information when unreimbursed travel expenses are detected; a travel expense reimbursement information editing means for editing the travel expense reimbursement information obtained from said reimbursement information inputting means to information in a record form or a file for transmission; and means for transmitting the record or file edited by said travel expense reimbursement information editing means to a person or section in charge of processing thereof." Garback does not disclose or suggest these features. Claim 4 is allowable.

Claims 2, 3, and 5 depend from claim 1 or 4 and are allowable at least for these reason. Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled.

Appl. No. 09/508,870
Amdt. dated November 10, 2003
Preliminary Amendment

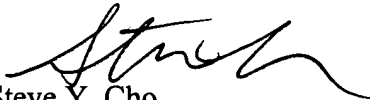
PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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